

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR,YO

SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF CCIC TRAINING PROGRAMS

REF : STATE 7471

1. EMBASSY HAS ALSO NOTED LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN US CUSTOMS AND DEA IN PLANNING CCIC TRAINING. IN OUR OPINION, FAULT RESTS WITH CUSTOMS. DEA HAS UNDERTAKEN NO TRAINING OF YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS DURING LAST THREE YEARS, WHILE IN THE SAME PERIOD CUSTOMS HAS ORGZNIZED FIVE PROJECTS. IN NO CASE WAS DEA VIENNA (WHICH HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIAISON WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS) AWARE OF CUSTOMS' PLANS UNTIL THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR DID SO IN INTERESTS OF COORDINATION. BUT INFORMAL COORDINATION INFIELD CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR INADEQUATE COORDINATION IN PLANNING STAGES.

2. THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT BURST OF TRAINING SPONSORED BY CUSTOMS SINCE IT DESIGNATED YUGOSLAVIA A PRIORITY TRAINING COUNTRY LAST YEAR. BY SPRING, THREE OF THE FIVE AFORMENTIONED PROJECTS WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHING A SIX-MONTH PERIOD--AN IN-COUNTRY SEMINAR LAST OCTOBER, A VISIT TO THE US BY THE YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS DIRECTOR, AND, IF YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS APPROVES, FOUR OF ITS OFFICERS WILL ATTEND A MIDDLE-LEVEL TRAINING

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COURSE IN THE US THIS SPRING. US CUSTOMS WENT AHEAD

WITH THE LAST PROJECT ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT PLAN FOR IT IN OUR LAST NCAP BECAUSE THE YUGOSLAVS HAD INCORPORATED PREVIOUS US TRAINING IN THEIR OWN TRAINING AND WE FELT ANY FURTHER US TRAINING AFTER THE OCTOBER SEMINAR WOULD BE REDUNDANT AND WASTEFUL. THE US CUSTOMS INSTRUCTORS WHO TAUGHT THE OCTOBER SEMINAR SEPARATELY CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.

3. CUSTOMS' CURRENT ACTIVITY IS AN ECHO OF ITS PROPOSAL LAST YEAR TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WHEN ASKED AT WHAT TIME TO COMMENT ON CUSTOMS' PROPOSAL, THIS EMBASSY CAME OUT UNEQUIVOCALLY FOR PRESERVING DEA AS THE US NARCOTICS AGENCY WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING LIAISON WITH GOY, BECAUSE WE FELT THE CHANGE PROPOSED BY CUSTOMS WOULD CREATE CONFUSION IN OUR EXCELLENT COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND THIS WOULD NOT BE IN US INTERESTS (75 BELGRADE 745). INHERENT IN OUR POSITION, WHICH HAS NOT CHANGED IN THE MEANTIME, IS THAT COMPETITION BORN OF NARROW AGENCY INTERESTS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO JEOPARDIZE CURRENT COOPERATION.

4. COORDINATION, NOT ONLY IN THE FIELD, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IN WASHINGTON, OF ALL NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TRAINING, IS THE BEST WAY TO HEAD OFF WASTEFUL AND POTENTIALLY HARMFUL COMPETITION. DEA SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN ITS GOOD RECORD OF KEEPING THIS EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT APPRISED OF ALL ITS ACTIVITIES INVOLVING YUGOSLAVIA. CUSTOMS SHOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO COORDINATE ITS TRAINING AND OTHER PROJECTS WITH CCINC AND THE DEPARTMENT. BEFORE APPROVAL IS GRANTED TO THEM, PROJECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CURRENT NCAP AND OTHER RECENT POLICY STATEMENTS ON NARCOTICS SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY, E.G., 75 BELGRADE 6203. NEW PROJECTS (WHICH WERE NOT ENVISAGED IN THE NCAP OR OTHER MESSAGES) SHOULD ALSO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EMBASSY FOR CONSIDERATION BEFORE THEY ARE APPROVED. SILBERMAN

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